

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 to 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A license plate holding bracket to be attached to the rear of a tailgate above a rear bumper for holding a license plate behind said tailgate for closing said cargo bed by displacement thereof in a perpendicular direction when said tailgate is in a vertical state and for opening said tailgate by positioning said tailgate in a horizontal state in order to open said cargo bed, said license plate holding bracket comprising:

a gate side fixing member to be fixed to said tailgate;

a plate holding member rotatably connected to said gate side fixing member for being movable from a horizontal position of said license plate to an erected folded out position thereof;

a stopper provided on said plate holding member for contacting said rear bumper when said tailgate is approximately horizontal and when said license plate is approximately erected folded out so as to be easily noticeable from behind when said cargo bed is open and to avoid unnecessary vibrations of said license plate;

~~The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:~~

a lock mechanism for locking the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate,

a first end of a stay attached to the gate side fixing member for performing a reciprocal rotational movement;

a member with a groove formed along the plate holding member,

a pin arranged on said side of a second end of the stay being passed through the groove; and

a pin engaging member for engaging with the pin when the plate holding member is erected folded out,

wherein the plate holding member is supported by the stay when the plate holding member is erected folded out, on the gate side fixing member.

14. (Previously Presented) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

the rotational movement mechanism has a structure for the pin being placed at the first end of the groove when the plate holding member is in parallel with the gate side fixing member and the pin being placed at the second end of the groove when the plate holding member is almost erected folded out, on the gate side fixing member and wherein the stay performs a reciprocal and rotational movement by an angle exceeding 90 degrees from a state where the plate holding member is substantially parallel to the gate side fixing member to a state where the plate holding member is erected folded out on the gate side fixing member,

and wherein the second end of the groove is formed to be tilted toward a center of the rotational movement of the stay.

15. (Original) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a lock mechanism with a latch arranged in a side of the plate holding member and a striker arranged in said side of the gate side fixing member for locking the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member and detachably for engaging with the latch when the license plate is almost in parallel with the tailgate; and

a biasing member for exerting a biasing force on the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member to separate these members from each other when the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member are locked by the lock mechanism.

16. (Original) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a resin member for covering a surface of the plate holding member in a side of the gate side fixing member.

17. (Original) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the plate holding member has a hole therein and a hook formed in the resin member to engage with a periphery of the hole, and the resin member detachably engages with the plate holding member.

18. (Original) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a fixing member arranged to detachably engage with the plate holding member for fixing the resin member.

19. (Currently Amended) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 18, wherein:

the fixing member enables contacting ~~contacts~~ the tailgate when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate.

20. (Previously Presented) The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a bolt arranged in the plate holding member for passing through a holding hole formed in the license plate; and

a nut for screwing to the bolt.

21. (Previously Presented) A license plate holding structure of a vehicle, comprising:

a tailgate above a rear bumper for holding a license plate behind a cargo bed of a vehicle, said tailgate for closing said cargo bed by displacement thereof in a perpendicular direction when said tailgate is in a vertical state and for opening said tailgate by positioning thereof at a horizontal state in order to open said cargo bed;

a gate side fixing member fixed to said tailgate;

a plate holding member rotatably connected to said gate side fixing member for being movable from a horizontal position of said license plate to an erected folded out position thereof; and

a stopper provided on said plate holding member for contacting said rear bumper when said tailgate is approximately horizontal and when said license plate is approximately erected folded out so as to be easily noticeable from behind if said cargo bed is open and to avoid unnecessary vibrations of said license plate,

wherein a receiving cavity for receiving the stopper is formed in the tailgate to face the license plate holding bracket.